

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for endoscopic application of surgical staples to attach an object to body tissue, which comprises:

- a) frame;
- b) generally elongated endoscopic portion connected to said frame and extending distally therefrom, said endoscopic portion defining a generally longitudinal axis and having a proximal end portion and a distal end portion;
- c) a cartridge cooperating with the distal end portion of the endoscopic portion for storing a plurality of surgical staples, the staples configured and dimensioned to attach an object to body tissue;
- d) an actuating mechanism spaced from said distal end portion of said endoscopic portion, the actuating mechanism openable to move said distal end portion from a first position to a second position angularly oriented relative to said generally longitudinal axis;
- e) an advancing mechanism configured to individually advance such staples distally for positioning adjacent the body tissue, said advancing mechanism operable to advance a staple in said first position and said second position of said distal end portion; and
- f) a closure mechanism configured to close each staple in a manner at least sufficient to encompass at least a portion of the object and to penetrate the body tissue to attach the portion of the object to the body tissue.